

The South Project

SANTIAGO GATHERING

Crossing Horizons
context + community
in the south

Cruzando Horizontes
contexto + comunidad
en el sur

Australian Craft in Latin Dialogue

Upcoming events in Chile provide an important opportunity for Australian craft. Forums, exhibitions and performances will open a new conversation between Australian and Latin American craft practitioners. There will be much to share, including a growing confidence in regional identity, an appreciation of material culture and new paradigms for collaborations with traditional artisans.

The South Project is a five year program of gatherings, residencies and exhibitions designed to develop a network of artists and writers across the south, in particular to explore what cultural strengths emerge from this relatively uncharted region. In spring 2006, a number of activities are planned in Chile which will bring together artists, craftspersons, writers, curators and facilitators, mainly from Australasia and Latin America. This will be followed next year by a gathering in Johannesburg that explores dialogue with African cultures. The project will culminate the following year in Melbourne as a cultural festival, not only showcasing the cultural strengths of the south, but also heralding new developments such as collective arts and world craft.

In and around the Santiago gathering, there are a number of meetings and exhibitions that will help develop the dialogue between cultures and art forms. From this, it is hoped that new opportunities will emerge for collaboration and cross-fertilisation.

Latin Identity

Valparaiso 25-26 September, Santiago 27-29 September

'Traces of identity: Body, habit, habitat'

10th version of Circuito Identidades Latinas 2006

Circuito Identidades Latinas (CIL) is a non-profit organization which brings together leaders in the fields of design, entrepreneurship, crafts, arts, journalism and education to reflect on the impact of identity-based design. Since 2004 CIL has organized travelling workshops and seminars which take place in several Latin American cities. In those examples of successful and original cases are discussed by those who make design and reflect on it. These activities have generated a powerful network in America and Spain and have been the starting point for new projects. CIL is supported by UNESCO, Fundestarte (Spain), South Project (Australia), Zona Diseño (Chile), Latin American Design Network (Colombia), National design Program (Argentina) and the Institute for Social Development (Argentina), among others.

Chiloe school exchange

30 September Achao School, Chiloe, Chile

As part of South Kids, the ambassadorial flightless bird, Su-Su the Emu, will be visiting a school on the island of Achao, off the coast of the island of Chiloe, renowned for its strong craft traditions. This is part of a growing network of schools working with artists in the South Project. For more information about the remarkable culture of Chiloe, go to www.chiloestories.org

Make the Common Precious exhibition

Opening: Tuesday 3 October 7:30pm

Venue: Centro Cultural Estación Mapocho, Santiago

An exhibition of 'poor craft' featuring contemporary craft /object art by indigenous and non-indigenous makers across Australia. 'Poor craft' is a movement for the revitalisation of making through the use of materials found in the public domain. It evokes the odes of Pablo Neruda which express a nobility in the common things of life. The exhibition features work by Ari Athans, Roseanne Bartley, Kantjupayi Benson, Kate Campbell-Pope, Lorraine Connelly-Northey, Honor Freeman, Stephen Gallagher, Caz Guiney, David Herbert, Nicholas Jones, Nicole Lister, Sally Marsland, Paull McKee, Tiffany Parbs, Anna Phillips, Fleur Schell, Mark Vaarwerk, Damien Wright and Louiseann Zahra. It will be opened by the Chilean Minister of Arts, Paulina Urrutia, in conjunction with the gathering

www.southproject.org/Santiago/MCP_Santiago.htm

Crossing Horizons: condition, context and community in the South

Santiago, Chile, 3-6 October

Venue Wed 4 Oct - Centro Cultural Estación Mapocho

Opening TRANS VERSA at Museo de Arte Contemporaneo (Parque Forestal) (curated by Zara Stanhope and Danae Mossman, work by Brook Andrew, David Clegg, Lonnie Hutchinson, Fiona Jack, Ash Keating, Maddie Leach, Andrew McQualter, Daniel Malone, Dane Mitchell, Tom Nicholson and Selina Ou)

Venue Thurs 5 Oct - Museo de Arte Contemporaneo (MAC - Parque Forestal)

Venue Fri 6 Oct - Universidad de Chile and CCEM

Three days of talks, exhibitions, performances and screenings to explore the south as a new axis of cultural exchange. Questions include: What relevance do the struggles of the 20th century have to the journey of the new millennium? How can art respond to the demand for greater community engagement in cultures of the south? In what ways are artists operating autonomously or collaboratively away from the epicentres? Speakers include Khwezi Gule (South Africa), Marcelo Brodsky (Argentina), Francisco Brugnoli (Chile), Mai Abu ElDahab (Egypt), Pat Hoffie (Australia), Ian Wedde (New Zealand), Manos Nathan (New Zealand), Tony Birch (Australia), Edson de Sousa (Brazil), Elicura Chihuailaf (Chile) and Ticio Escobar (Paraguay).

For more information, go to www.southproject.org

'South Project is one of the most important arts projects in Australia today - exploring with vigour new connections between peoples of the "south" leading to creative, energised, unexpected and rewarding arts endeavours.'

Alison Carroll, Director, Asialink

Future plans

Sat 7 October 2006

Venue: Universidad ARCIS, Valparaiso

10:10am-6pm Performance by Domenico de Clario at Pablo Neruda's house, La Sebastiana

2-4pm SESSION 6: Towards a World Craft

Across the south, designers and artists are beginning to collaborate with traditional makers. Acting as a counterbalance to the homogenisation of urban life the results of these collaborations are becoming visible in contemporary society. But is there the potential for a loss of authorship in the commercialisation of cultural tradition? The roundtable is an opportunity to share new paradigms for these collaborations. Are we heading towards a 'world craft' or can Pablo Neruda's tribute to the everyday assist in supporting a 'poor craft' as is reflected in *Make the Common Precious*?

Participants include:

- Damien Wright - furniture maker who has pioneered new appreciation of indigenous timber
- Roseanne Bartley - jeweller who has developed ways of engaging with the found world
- Mark McDean - textile artist working with Australian Indigenous fibre artists in Victoria
- Kate Rhodes - Australian curator exploring relevance of relational aesthetics in contemporary craft
- Laura Novik - organiser of Circuito Identidades Latinas, looking at design as expression of local identity
- Sam Carter - Associate Professor, Emily Carr Institute and organiser of Asia Pacific Applied Arts Forum and the Beautiful Garbage project in Africa
- Elena Gallegos - textile artist from Valparaiso whose work depicts the current geo-political environment through fabrics
- Pitti Palacios - a fashion designer from Valparaiso who works with weavers from Chile
- Kevin Murray - Director of Craft Victoria, author of *Craft Unbound: Make the Common Precious*

4-4:30pm Exhibition opening of Elena Gallegos

4:30 - 6pm Craft & Design strategy meeting

The South Project is managed and initiated by Craft Victoria.

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